

IC - (21156) - A REFLECTION ABOUT AGEING IN POVERTY IN A PANDEMIC WORLD: THE BRAZIL CASE

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Background and objectives

This paper aims to bring reflections about how communities can be designed to better integrate the sense of place needs of older adults considering people's perceptions from different social incomes in Brazil. Our findings are based on a longitudinal study that began in 2016 in nine different communities from the south, southeast, and Midwest regions of the country. The COVID-19 pandemic makes all of us discuss the healthy quality of the design of our cities and homes, and the way society has been living and connecting with the natural landscape. Public spaces with high air pollution, natural areas replaced by high-density buildings, and public green squares being more difficult to reach in cities, will make urban planners re-think new ways of healthy urban living. This research aims to challenge the following question: How can vulnerable communities in Brazil be designed to better integrate the sense of place needs of older adults? The results presented in this paper seeks to translate the findings obtained from community participatory methods into design guidelines for designing a sense of place for older adults reflecting the user's needs from different social incomes communities in Brazil, which accommodate both the need for independence and mobility whilst encouraging social participation and community engagement. The design guidelines are directed towards identifying urban design and planning principles for practitioners, urban regeneration professionals, and policymakers to guide the development of healthy age-friendly cities and communities.